

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended. Claims 11-17 are new. No new matter has been added.

Paragraphs [0024] and [0025] of the specification have been amended to correct typographical errors. More specifically, in the specification, one of the levers was erroneously identified as 17 and should have been identified as 27. Paragraphs [0024] and [0025] have been amended to correct this error. Support for this amendment is shown in the Figures and in claim 9. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, and 9 have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

***Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102:***

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by German reference DE 19706417C1 (the ‘417 reference).

The Examiner states that the ‘417 reference discloses, *inter alia*, “a convertible vehicle with a roof having...several lateral frame parts...the adjacent frame part, preceding the rear frame part in the direction of travel when roof is closed, can be moved without a force transfer through the rear frame part by at least one drive provided for roof opening, and the rear frame part is suspended on a gear mechanism that transfers the drive force and can be moved by it.” [emphasis added].

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that “the gear mechanism (10) includes a pair of substantially parallel links (27, 18) operatively connected to the frame parts (5, 6).” Therefore, the ‘417 reference fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn. Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-10, which depend from allowable claim 1, are also allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

***New Claims:***

The Applicant has added new claims 11-17. Support for the new claims can be found in ¶[0019]-[0028] of the specification and in Figures 1 and 2. No new matter has been added.

**CONCLUSION**

This Amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed January 11, 2008. The amendments to the claims, the remarks in support of the amended and rejected claims, and the new claims are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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